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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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112003

DOCKET NUMBER	ANTICIPATED CLASSIFICATION OF THIS APPLICATION:		PRIOR APPLICATION	
	CLASS	SUBCLASS	EXAMINER	ART UNIT
10873.694USC1			Unknown	Unknown

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 321728013 US
 Date of Deposit: November 20, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: Teresa Anderson
 Name: Teresa Anderson

CONTINUATION APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a request for filing a continuation application under 37 CFR § 1.53(b) of Serial No. 10/203,328, filed on August 6, 2002 entitled MAGNETIC TRANSFER METHOD AND MAGNETIC TRANSFER APPARATUS by the following inventor(s):

1. Enclosed is a copy of the prior application; including the specification, claims, drawings, a signed oath or declaration, and any amendments referred to in the oath or declaration filed to complete the prior application. (It is noted that no amendments referred to in the oath or declaration filed to complete the prior application introduced new matter therein.) The continuing application is as follows: 31 pages of specification, 19 claims, 1 page of abstract, 14 sheets of drawings, and 4 pages of oath or declaration.
2. The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
3. Cancel original claims 1, 2 and 6-19 of this application before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
3. The filing fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS AS FILED

NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA		RATE	Fee
TOTAL CLAIMS: 3	-20	0	x \$18.00	0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3	-3	0	x \$86.00	0.00
			BASIC FILING FEE:	\$770.00
			TOTAL FILING FEE:	\$770.00

Small entity status is claimed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.27.

4. Payment of fees:
 Attached is a check in the amount of \$770.00
 Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees as set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.16 to 1.18 which may be required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Account No. 13-2725.

6. Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

"This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 10/203,328, filed August 6, 2002, which is a National Stage Application of PCT/JP02/02607, filed March 28, 2001, which application(s) are incorporated herein by reference."

7. A set of formal drawings (sheets) is enclosed.

8. Priority of application Serial No. 2000-97308, filed on March 31, 2000 and application serial no. 2000-125744, filed on August 26, 2000 both in Japan, is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119.

 The certified copies were filed with the International Bureau in prior application No. PCT/JP01/02607, filed March 28, 2001.

9. The prior application is assigned of record to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. located at 1006, Oaza Kadoma, Kadoma-shi, Osaka 571-8501 Japan.

10. The Power of Attorney in the prior application is to:

Merchant & Gould P.C.
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2215

11. A preliminary amendment is enclosed. (Claims added by this amendment have been properly numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered original claim in the prior application.)

 Fee for excess claims is attached.

12. A petition and fee has been filed to extend the term in the prior application until . A copy of the petition for extension of time in the prior application is attached.

13. The inventor(s) in this application are less than those named in the prior application and it is requested that the following inventors identified above for the prior application be deleted:

14. A Nonpublication Request under 37 CFR 1.213(a) is enclosed.

15. Also Enclosed: Application Data Sheet, Petition to Make Special, a check for \$130 for payment of the Petition Fee, Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449

16. Address all future communications to the **Attention of Douglas P. Mueller** (may only be completed by attorney or agent of record) at the address below.

17. A return postcard is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300



Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/pjk

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



UNKNOWN

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	HASHI ET AL.	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	UNKNOWN	Group Art Unit:	UNKNOWN
Filed:	NOVEMBER 20, 2003	Docket No.:	10873.694USC1
Title:	MAGNETIC TRANSFER METHOD AND MAGNETIC TRANSFER APPARATUS		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By: *Teresa Anderson*
Name: Teresa Anderson

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.102

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition that the examination of the above-captioned application be expedited because claims of the patent application filed on the same date herewith are allowable over the references found in the international search report from the priority PCT application. The petition fee of \$130.00 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h), pursuant to 37 CFR 1.102(d), is enclosed herewith. The claims of the application filed herewith are directed to a single invention.

A Search of the Prior Art has been Conducted.

A search was conducted by the Japanese Patent Office in the priority PCT application for references relevant to the claimed invention. Copies of all references found in the search have been submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith.

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The Claimed Subject Matter is Patentable over the Prior Art References.

The following detailed discussion of three "Y" references in the international search report (the remaining references cited in the search report being "A" and "P" references) points out with particularity (required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c)) how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the Prior Art references.

JP11-25455

This reference discloses a magnetic transfer method and a method of cleaning fine dust from surfaces of the master and slave disk. JP11-25455 discloses a master disc coupled to a slave disc, and application of pressurized air at a center of the master disc through a channel formed in the master disc adjacent to the slave disc primary surface such that the air is forced out between the discs to remove dust on the disc surfaces. After removal of the dust, the master and slave discs are brought into contact with each other under a vacuum pressure and magnetic transfer is conducted.

JP11-25455 fails to disclose or suggest optically detecting defects in the surface of the magnetic disc (slave disc) or performing a magnetic transfer step in response to results of the detection of defects as required by claims 3-5. Therefore, claims 3-5 are allowable over JP11-25455.

JP3-276049A

This reference is cited for claims 3 and 4. A method of claim 3 has a feature that the magnetic transfer step is performed immediately after a predetermined condition has been confirmed by an optical detecting step. An apparatus of claim 4 corresponds to the method of claim 3.

JP3-276049A shows a method of optically detecting defects in the surface of the magnetic disk. However JP3-276049A fails to show the relation between the optical detection step and the magnetic transfer step required by claims 3 and 4. The following explains advantageous features of claims 3 and 4 in which the optical detection is performed before the magnetic transfer.

- 1) It is preferable that the defect detection is performed before the magnetic transfer. If there is a foreign matter on the magnetic disk, the foreign matter may cause a depression to be

formed in the magnetic disk during the magnetic transfer step. Once the depression is formed, it is difficult to repair the disk. Therefore, it is important to detect defects before the magnetic transfer step.

Further, by performing the magnetic transfer immediately after the defect detection, no foreign matter gathers on the surface of the magnetic disk between the two steps. This is effective to suppress depressions from being formed in the surface of the magnetic disk during the magnetic transfer step.

2) In a case of performing the defect detection before the magnetic transfer, the optical method is preferable for detection. The optical method does not cause foreign matter to gather on the surface of the magnetic disk during a detection step, different from, for example, a glide height test in which defects are detected in the magnetic disk by scanning the magnetic disk with a detection head. Therefore, claims 3 and 4 are allowable over JP3-276049A.

JP9-63051A

This reference is cited for claim 5. A method of claim 5 has a feature that the glide height test (the step of detecting defects using a detection head that floats a predetermined distance above the surface of the disc) is performed after the magnetic transfer step.

JP9-63051A shows a “glide height test” but fails to show a relation between the “glide height test” and the magnetic transfer step. According to the method of claim 5 in which the “glide height test” is performed after the magnetic transfer, the following advantage can be obtained.

By using the “glide height test”, it is possible to detect the presence of unwanted protrusions on the surface of the magnetic disk, and in particular protrusions that are at least as high as the clearance between the magnetic disk and a magnetic head during recording and reproduction, thereby making it possible to improve a surface condition of the magnetic disk based on results of the test.

However, when the “glide height test” is performed, foreign matter may be gathered when a head scans across the surface of a magnetic disk. Therefore, if the magnetic transfer is performed after the “glide height test”, the magnetic disk may be damaged. On the other hand, according to the method of claim 5, it is possible to perform highly reliable magnetic transfer

performed after the "glide height test", the magnetic disk may be damaged. On the other hand, according to the method of claim 5, it is possible to perform highly reliable magnetic transfer that does not create depressions in the surface of the magnetic disk. Therefore, claim 5 is allowable over JP9-63051A.

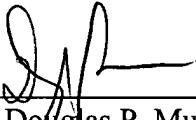
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-5 are allowable of the references found in the international search report for at least the reasons set forth above. Consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 20, 2003

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